

**Amendment to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A computerized method for applying policy restrictions on a piece of data, ~~wherein the policy restrictions are automatically applied to the piece of data~~, the method comprising:

defining one or more subsets of potential users of the piece of data;  
associating the policy restrictions with the one or more defined subsets of potential users;  
in response to the associating, defining the associated policy restrictions for the one or more defined subset of potential users;  
receiving a request from a user for using ~~accepting~~ the piece of data, said using comprises at least one of the following: sending the piece of data and receiving the piece of data, said user being determined to belong to the one or more defined subsets of potential users;  
~~determining whether the piece of data is to be used by a user of the subset of potential users;~~ and  
in response to the received request, automatically applying the defined policy restrictions to the piece of data for the user without an input from the user such that the user uses ~~if~~ the piece of data is to be used by a user of the subset of the potential users.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the piece of data is an electronic mail (e-mail) communication.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the defined subset of potential users is an e-mail distribution list.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the defined subset of potential users is based on common user account attributes.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the policy restrictions comprise restrictions on sending the piece of data to a user.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the policy restrictions comprise restrictions on saving the piece of data to a persistent storage medium.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the policy restrictions comprise restrictions on outputting the piece of data to a hard-copy format.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the policy restrictions comprise restrictions on producing a copy of the piece of data.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the policy restrictions comprise restrictions on accessing the piece of data subsequent to condition for expiration of the piece of data.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for applying policy restrictions on a piece of data, ~~wherein the policy restrictions are automatically applied to the piece of data,~~ the method comprising:

defining one or more subsets of potential users of the piece of data;

associating the policy restrictions with the one or more defined subsets of potential users;

in response to the associating, defining the associated policy restrictions for the one or more defined subset of potential users;

receiving a request from a user for using ~~accepting~~ the piece of data, said using comprises at least one of the following: sending the piece of data and receiving the piece of data, said user being determined to belong to the one or more defined subsets of potential users;

~~determining whether the piece of data is to be used by a user of the subset of potential users;~~ and

in response to the received request, automatically applying the defined policy restrictions to the piece of data for the user without an input from the user such that the user uses ~~if~~ the piece of data is to be used by a user of the subset of the potential users.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A computerized method for applying policy restrictions on a piece of data, ~~wherein the policy restrictions are automatically applied to the piece of data~~, the method comprising:

defining one or more subsets of potential attributes of the piece of data;

associating the policy restrictions with the one or more defined subsets of potential attributes;

in response to the associating, defining the associated policy restrictions for the one or more defined subset of potential attributes;

receiving a request for associating an attribute with ~~accepting~~ the piece of data, said using comprises at least one of the following: sending the piece of data and receiving the piece of data, said attributed being determined to belong to the one or more defined subsets of potential attributes;

~~determining whether the piece of data possesses an attribute of the subset of potential attributes;~~ and

in response to the received request, automatically applying the defined policy restrictions to the piece of data for the user without an input from the attribute such that the attribute uses if the piece of data ~~possesses an attribute of the subset of potential attributes.~~

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11 wherein the piece of data is an e-mail communication.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 11 wherein the defined subset of potential attributes is based on an author and a recipient of the piece of data.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 11 wherein the defined subset of potential attributes is based on the piece of data's content.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 11 wherein the policy restrictions comprise restrictions on sending the piece of data to a user.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 11 wherein the policy restrictions comprise restrictions on saving the piece of data to a persistent storage medium.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 11 wherein the policy restrictions comprise restrictions on outputting the piece of data to a hard-copy format.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 11 wherein the policy restrictions comprise restrictions on producing a copy of the piece of data.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 11 wherein the policy restrictions comprise restrictions on accessing the piece of data subsequent to condition for expiration of the piece of data.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for applying policy restrictions on a piece of data, ~~wherein the policy restrictions are automatically applied to the piece of data,~~ the method comprising:

defining one or more subsets of potential attributes of the piece of data;

associating the policy restrictions with the one or more defined subsets of potential attributes;

in response to the associating, defining the associated policy restrictions for the one or more defined subset of potential attributes;

receiving a request for associating an attribute with ~~accepting~~ the piece of data, said using comprises at least one of the following: sending the piece of data and receiving the piece of data, said attributed being determined to belong to the one or more defined subsets of potential attributes;

~~determining whether the piece of data possesses an attribute of the subset of potential attributes;~~ and

in response to the received request, automatically applying the defined policy restrictions to the piece of data for the user without an input from the attribute such that the attribute uses if the piece of data possesses an attribute of the subset of potential attributes.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A computerized method for applying policy restrictions on a piece of data, ~~wherein the policy restrictions are automatically applied to the piece of data~~, the method comprising:

defining one or more subsets of potential attributes of an environment of the piece of data;

associating the policy restrictions with the one or more defined subsets of potential attributes;

in response to the associating, defining the associated policy restrictions for the one or more defined subset of potential attributes;

receiving a request for associating an attribute with ~~accepting~~ the piece of data, said using comprises at least one of the following: sending the piece of data and receiving the piece of data, said attributed being determined to belong to the one or more defined subsets of potential attributes;

~~determining whether the piece of data possesses an attribute of the subset of potential attributes;~~ and

in response to the received request, automatically applying the defined policy restrictions to the piece of data for the user without an input from the attribute such that the attribute uses ~~if~~ the piece of data possesses an attribute of the subset of potential attributes.

Claim 22 (original): The method of claim 21 wherein the piece of data is an e-mail communication.

Claim 23 (original): The method of claim 21 wherein the defined subset of potential attributes is based on a time of day.

Claim 24 (original): The method of claim 21 wherein the defined subset of potential attributes is based on a date.

Claim 25 (original): The method of claim 21 wherein the defined subset of potential attributes is based on network traffic conditions.

Claim 26 (original): The method of claim 21 wherein the defined subset of potential attributes is based on a recipient of the piece of data being on-line when accessing the piece of data.

Claim 27 (original): The method of claim 21 wherein the defined subset of potential attributes is based on a system configuration of a recipient of the piece of data.

Claim 28 (original): The method of claim 21 wherein the policy restrictions comprise restrictions on sending the piece of data to a user.

Claim 29 (original): The method of claim 21 wherein the policy restrictions comprise restrictions on saving the piece of data to a persistent storage medium.

Claim 30 (original): The method of claim 21 wherein the policy restrictions comprise restrictions on outputting the piece of data to a hard-copy format.

Claim 31 (original): The method of claim 21 wherein the policy restrictions comprise restrictions on producing a copy of the piece of data.

Claim 32 (original): The method of claim 21 wherein the policy restrictions comprise restrictions on accessing the piece of data subsequent to condition for expiration of the piece of data.

Claim 33 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for applying policy restrictions on a piece of data, ~~wherein the policy restrictions are automatically applied to the piece of data~~, the method comprising:

defining one or more subsets of potential attributes of an environment of the piece of data;

associating the policy restrictions with the one or more defined subsets of potential attributes;

in response to the associating, defining the associated policy restrictions for the one or more defined subset of potential attributes;

receiving a request for associating an attribute with ~~accepting~~ the piece of data, said using comprises at least one of the following: sending the piece of data and receiving the piece of data, said attributed being determined to belong to the one or more defined subsets of potential attributes;

~~determining whether the piece of data possesses an attribute of the subset of potential attributes;~~ and

in response to the received request, automatically applying the defined policy restrictions to the piece of data for the user without an input from the attribute such that the attribute uses if the piece of data ~~possesses an attribute of the subset of potential attributes.~~

Claim 34 (currently amended): A computerized method for creating policy restrictions to be automatically applied to a piece of data, the method comprising:

defining one or more subsets of potential users of the piece of data; ~~and~~

~~defining~~ creating the policy restrictions for the one or more defined subset of potential users;

receiving a request from a user for using the piece of data, said using comprises at least one of the following: sending the piece of data and receiving the piece of data;

comparing the user with the one or more defined subsets of potential users; and

in response to the comparing, automatically applying the created policy restrictions to the piece of data for the user without an input from the user such that the user uses the piece of data.

Claim 35 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for creating policy restrictions to be automatically applied to a piece of data, the method comprising:

defining one or more subsets of potential users of the piece of data; ~~and~~

~~defining~~ creating the policy restrictions for the one or more defined subset of potential users;

receiving a request from a user for using the piece of data, said using comprises at least one of the following: sending the piece of data and receiving the piece of data;

comparing the user with the one or more defined subsets of potential users; and

in response to the comparing, automatically applying the created policy restrictions to the piece of data for the user without an input from the user such that the user uses the piece of data.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A computerized method for creating policy restrictions to be automatically applied to a piece of data, the method comprising:

defining one or more subsets of potential attributes of the piece of data; ~~and~~  
~~defining~~ creating the policy restrictions for the one or more defined subset of potential attributes ~~users~~;  
receiving a request from an attribute for using the piece of data, said using comprises at least one of the following: sending the piece of data and receiving the piece of data;  
comparing the attribute with the one or more defined subsets of potential attributes; and  
in response to the comparing, automatically applying the created policy restrictions to the piece of data for the attribute without an input from the attribute such that the attribute uses the piece of data.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A ~~computer-readable~~ storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for creating policy restrictions to be automatically applied to a piece of data, the method comprising:

defining one or more subsets of potential attributes of the piece of data; ~~and~~  
~~defining~~ creating the policy restrictions for the one or more defined subset of potential attributes ~~users~~;  
receiving a request from an attribute for using the piece of data, said using comprises at least one of the following: sending the piece of data and receiving the piece of data;  
comparing the attribute with the one or more defined subsets of potential attributes; and  
in response to the comparing, automatically applying the created policy restrictions to the piece of data for the attribute without an input from the attribute such that the attribute uses the piece of data.

Claim 38 (currently amended): A computerized method for creating policy restrictions to be automatically applied to a piece of data, the method comprising:



defining one or more subsets of potential attributes of an environment of the piece of data; ~~and~~

~~defining~~ creating the policy restrictions for the one or more defined subset of potential attributes ~~users~~;

receiving a request from an attribute for using the piece of data, said using comprises at least one of the following: sending the piece of data and receiving the piece of data;

comparing the attribute with the one or more defined subsets of potential attributes; and

in response to the comparing, automatically applying the created policy restrictions to the piece of data for the attribute without an input from the attribute such that the attribute uses the piece of data.

Claim 39 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing a method for creating policy restrictions to be automatically applied to a piece of data, the method comprising:

defining one or more subsets of potential attributes of an environment of the piece of data; ~~and~~

~~defining~~ creating the policy restrictions for the one or more defined subset of potential attributes ~~users~~;

receiving a request from an attribute for using the piece of data, said using comprises at least one of the following: sending the piece of data and receiving the piece of data;

comparing the attribute with the one or more defined subsets of potential attributes; and

in response to the comparing, automatically applying the created policy restrictions to the piece of data for the attribute without an input from the attribute such that the attribute uses the piece of data.